

The TennArk District of Optimist International is sponsoring a scholarship contest for **students who are deaf or hard of hearing**. The contest is called Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH). The contest will be held in **Hot Springs, AR on May 6, 2017 at 10:00am**. The contest site is Clarion on the Lake Hotel, 4813 Central Avenue, Hot Springs, AR 71913. Contest winners will be announced that day at the District luncheon.

The topic for this year's contest is "What the World Gains from Optimism."

The contest is open **only to deaf or hard of hearing students** in middle / junior high and high schools through grade 12. Winners will receive:

1st place scholarship - \$2,500 (provided by Optimist International)

2nd place scholarship - \$1,000 (provided by Optimist Hearing Foundation of Arkansas)

3rd place scholarship - \$500 (provided by Optimist Hearing Foundation of Arkansas)

The **deadline to submit application, audiogram, presentation and birth certificate to me is April 15, 2017**.

In order to conduct the contest, a minimum of three (3) contestants is required. As a result, the TennArk District is making an accelerated effort to distribute the contest information to as many schools as possible, as well as home schooled children. This will allow 3 very deserving students an opportunity to further their education.

It should also be noted that should a contestant fail to win first place, they would still be eligible to compete next year and would only be exempt from competition if first place is achieved. Students in the past have competed and won multiple 2nd or 3rd place scholarships or multiple scholarships including 1st place.

All students interested in participating in the contest must submit the results of an audiogram conducted no longer than 24 months prior to the date of the contest from a qualified audiologist. Students must be certified to have an uncorrected hearing loss of 40 decibels or more by a qualified audiologist and supported by the audiogram to be eligible to compete. Students with a lower level of hearing should be encouraged to participate in the Optimist Oratorical contest, as opposed to the CCDHH contest. Students may use sign language, oral presentation or a combination of both.

If you know anyone that would benefit from this information, please feel free to forward this message to them. We are seeking input and support from various constituents in the hearing related community. With the help of the Arkansas Department of Education, the Arkansas School for the Deaf and other groups such as Hands and Voices, AIM HI, Arkansas Children's Hospital, UALR, and Optimist Clubs throughout Arkansas and portions of western Tennessee, I feel confident that the contest this year will be a huge success.

As the contest chairman, I look forward to the opportunity to help students in pursuit of their higher education goals.

The attached document will provide additional information related to the contest. If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you.

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Application for the 2016-2017 Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Name _____ M F
Address _____
City _____ State/Country _____ Zip Code _____
Telephone (____) _____ / _____ E-mail _____
Date of Birth _____ / _____ / _____ Age _____
Have you participated in any other Optimist Club's Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing this school year? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Audiologist Verification:
I verify that the student listed above has a hearing loss of 40 decibels or more.
Signature _____ Date _____ / _____ / _____
Title _____

Contestant Agreement:
I have studied the rules of the contest, and I will be bound by all of the requirements.
Contestant's Signature _____ Date _____ / _____ / _____
Parent or Guardian Permission:
I give my permission for my child/ward to participate in this contest.
Signature _____ Date _____ / _____ / _____
Relationship _____
I, _____ grant the Optimist Club/International my permission to use a picture of my son/daughter _____ for their public relations purposes. Optimist Club/International may use the photo in any publication they see fit.
Sponsoring Optimist Club Name _____
Sponsoring Optimist Club Number _____

Please send application to address below:

the contestant finishes.

Topic: "What the World Gains from Optimism"

Official Rules

Section I - General Rules

1. Contestants must enter through a local Optimist Club.
2. The CCDHH District Chair is responsible for all phases of the contest and his or her rulings in accordance with the official rules are final.
3. All competitions must be conducted by Optimists only.
4. The contest date, time and place will be determined by the Contest Chair.
5. All contestants must comply with the official rules of the contest.
6. The official application must be completed by each contestant and submitted to the sponsoring Club's Contest Chair.
7. All Zone, Regional and District level contests must have a minimum of 3 contestants participating.

Section II - Qualifications for Contestants

1. The contest is open to young people through grade 12 in the United States and Canada, to CEGEP in Quebec and grade 13 in the Caribbean. Students must have an uncorrected hearing loss of 40 decibels or more in order to be eligible to participate. Participants must submit an audiogram or a Cochlear Implant Programming Report done within 24 months of the date of the contest from a qualified audiologist
2. Contestants are eligible for only one Club's contest during any given year.
3. Each contestant must prepare his or her own presentation with limited assistance on content. Improvements to the presentation can be made at any time.

Section III - Contest Rules

1. All contestants must make a presentation on the official contest topic and submit a typed copy of the speech.
2. Contestants can present in sign language, orally or using a combination of both.
3. Presentations may be delivered in a language other than English if the language used is the official language of the country in which the sponsoring Club is located.
4. The interpreter is to be provided by the sponsoring Optimist Club/Zone/District.
5. All contestants must give the official contest topic before beginning their presentation. If a contestant fails to do this, a 3-point penalty will be automatically assessed by the timekeeper.
6. Any quotation or copyrighted material used in the presentation must be identified with the original author's name. Failure to identify non-original material will result in disqualification.
7. The use of props, special costumes or clothing, or the use of prompters will not be permitted. The penalty will be disqualification. Notes and lecterns can be used if the contestant desires.
8. The time limit is not under 4 minutes and no longer than 5 minutes. Contestants going over or under will not be cautioned, and will be penalized one point each 15 seconds or fraction of over or under the time limits. This penalty will be assessed by the timekeeper.
9. Timing will begin immediately after the official topic is given. Timing will stop when

Section IV - Judging and Timing

1. Each contest must have three judges, one timekeeper and one certified interpreter.
2. The judges must be qualified to evaluate the presentation methods of all contestants with or without the assistance of an interpreter.
3. The judges and timekeeper must not be identified in any pre-publicity or at the contest until after the contest has been completed.
4. Judges are not permitted to discuss or compare scores or opinions on any of the contestants with anyone or each other. Judges must evaluate each presentation independently.
5. The judges' scores and penalties are confidential and should not be viewed by anyone except the Contest Chair.

Section V - Scoring

1. Material Organization – subject adherence, theme, content, color and logic. The maximum point award is 40 points.
2. Delivery & Presentation – delivery, gestures and emphasis. The maximum point award is 30 points.
3. Overall Effectiveness – appeal, impression, attitude and effect. The maximum point award is 30 points.

Section VI - Penalties

1. Failure to give official topic – 3 points
2. Failure to identify non-original material - disqualification
3. Use of props, etc. – disqualification
4. Time penalties – 1 points for each 15 seconds or fraction of over or under the limit
5. Self-identification – 5 points or fraction of based on degree of identification

For more information contact:

SPONSORING CLUB SHOULD POST CONTACT INFORMATION HERE

Contact person: _____

Contact address: _____

Contact phone or email: _____

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